

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-10 STR-04 FEA-01

CU-04 /116 W

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R 241655Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 1856

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR ECON HA

SUBJ: PRESIDENT ORDERS THAT NEXT HAITIAN FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT
PLAN GIVE PRIORITY TO HINTERLANDS

1. ON JULY 16, PRESIDENT DUVALIER PAID A SPECIAL VISIT TO HAITIAN PLANNING AGENCY CONADEP TO DELIVER PERSONALLY HIS DIRECTIVES FOR SECOND HAITIAN FIVE YEAR PLAN. KEY POINTS OF PRESIDENTS SPEECH WERE HIS PERSONAL DETERMINATION TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT OF HAITI AND THE NEED TO DEVOTE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO AREAS OUTSIDE OF PORT AU PRINCE.

2. PRESIDENT ASSIGNED FIRST PRIORITY TO AGRICULTURE, NOTING THAT EIGHTY PERCENT OF POPULATION LIVED IN RURAL AREAS, BUT ONLY FORTY PERCENT OF THE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT ORIGINATED THERE. HE STATED THAT INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY WAS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO FEED THE HAITIAN PEOPLE AND TO PROVIDE THE RAW MATERIALS ON WHICH TO BASE SUBSTITUTION INDUSTRIES "TO MAKE US LESS DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN COUNTRIES". HE ORDERED THAT PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR BE AT LEAST TWENTY PERCENT OF TOTAL PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES.

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3. SECOND PRIORITY IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A

DECENTRALIZED INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE, ESPECIALLY THE PRODUCTION OF ELECTRIC POWER, WITH INITIAL PROJECTS TO GO TO TOWNS NAMED AS "GROWTH CENTERS". PURPOSE WOULD BE NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE IMPROVED FACILITIES IN SMALLER TOWNS, BUT ALSO, HOPEFULLY, TO REDUCE THE INFLUX OF PEOPLE INTO PORT AU PRINCE AND CONSEQUENT LOP-SIDED GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY.

4. THIRD PRIORITY IS TO BE GIVEN TO EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING. PRESIDENT ADMITTED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARRIVE AT A UNIVERSAL, GENERALIZED EDUCATION SYSTEM FOR ALL THE POPULATION OF SCHOOL AGE, BUT STRESSED THE NEED TO REACH THIS GOAL WITH ONLY A REASONABLE DELAY. HE NOTED THAT THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM SHOULD BE CLOSELY LINKED TO ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TO THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPMENT, AND SHOULD PROMOTE URBAN AND RURAL ELITES, IN ORDER TO ELIMINATE THE INEQUALITIES OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM WHICH WEIGHS HEAVIEST ON THE PEASANTS.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE THREE PRIORITY AREAS, THE PRESIDENT ALSO NOTED THAT THE PLAN SHOULD HAVE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO FOLLOW UP PROGRAMS INITIATED UNDER PREVIOUS PLANS AND TO INTRODUCE NEW PROJECTS SUCH AS INCREASED EXPLORATION OF HAITIAN SUB-SOIL. HE STRESSED HIS PERSONAL INTEREST IN INSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS, AND ALSO ORDERED THAT HE BE KEPT INFORMED REGULARLY ON PROGRESS OF THE PLAN.

6. COMMENT: THE PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED ARE REASONABLE AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SUPPORTED BY VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL DONORS. FACT THAT PRESIDENT HIMSELF VISITED CONADEP, MET THE STAFF, AND HIMSELF OUTLINED THE PRIORITIES UNDERLINES HIS PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO THE NEW DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, SPEECHES, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTA01856
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750256-0422
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750725/aaaaawmh.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JAN 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT ORDERS THAT NEXT HAITIAN FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN GIVE PRIORITY TO HINTERLANDS
TAGS: EAGR, ECON, HA, (DUVALIER, JEAN-CLAUDE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006